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The Little Legislatures

Committees of Congress

GEORGE GOODWIN, JR.



In this study, Mr. Goodwin deals with decision-making in the American Congress. He maintains that competition among political organizations and government institutions plays an extremely important role, but that political parties, both parliamentary and national, are relatively weak participants in the struggles.

In this well-researched book, Mr. Goodwin shows that the bipartisan, specialized standing committees, often acting as surrogates for the whole Congress, are a powerful force in Congress, and are on occasion powerful enough to stand as equals of the President. He makes clear that any analysis of decision-making must appreciate the strength of the committees, and their particular place in the process.

The Little Legislatures traces the development of the committee system in both the House and the Senate through eleven Congresses. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the organization, make-up, and assignment traditions of the standing committees, and presents some innovative ideas for reform of the system.

Mr. Goodwin is a member of the Politics Department at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

300 pp., bibliog., index, notes, cloth \$8.50 June 1970 LC 75-103477 SBN 87023-060-5

Horse, Bird & Man

The Origins of Greek Painting

J. L. BENSON



The majority of archeologists and art historians have long assumed that the style of the silhouette figures on Attic Geometric vases is the product of instinct, accident, or Geometric ornaments. This widely held and self-defeating hypothesis has discouraged comprehensive analysis of Attic painting.

In Horse, Bird, & Man, Mr. Benson begins from the contrary assumption that the figures, which ultimately devoured the Geometric decorative style, can only be understood as the formal antithesis of the basic Geometric habit of expressing content in nonpictorial terms. The origins and form of the figures must therefore be sought in the historical tradition of pictorial expression.

Arising out of the needs of funerary iconography, the fundamental elements of the Attic style—horse, bird, man—came as naturally and as inevitably from the picture-rich tradition of the Aegean culture as did the Homeric epics.

This well-documented and meticulously-researched study is the first systematic and comprehensive analysis of Attic figure style in the period from the eleventh through the eighth centuries, B.C. Numerous illustrations have been included.

Mr. Benson, an acknowledged authority on Late Mycenaean vase-painting, is a member of the Department of Art at the University of Massachusetts.

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ARTHUR W. THOMPSON and ROBERT A. HART



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The late Mr. Thompson was a member of the Department of History of the University of Florida. Mr. Hart is a member of the History Department at the University of Massachusetts.

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